

## SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Registered Charity No. 268588

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE HELD AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE, HURSTPIERPOINT ON SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017 (9.30am)

### PRESENT:

Master:	Graham Hills	Central Council Reps:	Anne Franklin
General Secretary:	Sandra Alford		Graham Hills
Assistant Secretary:	Moya Hills		David Kirkcaldy
Treasurer:	Sue Gadd		Margaret Oram
Trustees:	Val Atkins	District Representatives:	
	Jack Burton	(N)	Stephanie & Richard Pendlebury
	Peter Wilkinson	(S)	Mary Burr
BRF Secretary:	David Kirkcaldy	(W)	Moya Hills
		(E)	

Events & Communication Team represented by: Alison Everett

Observer: Stella Bianco

The Master took the Chair and welcomed Mary Burr to her first meeting as Southern District Secretary and to Stella Bianco as an observer before taking on her role as Eastern CC Rep (for one year only) in May and introductions were made.

- 1. Apologies for absence** had been received from Pat Aylward (Safeguarding Officer), Stephen Beckingham (East CC Rep), Frances and Peter Bradford, Nick Cant and David Hollands (Eastern District Committee members) and Marion Hollands (Eastern District Secretary).
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016:** 6 (g) Central Council update – the whole ethos of the 2018 CC meeting would change. With this amendment, the Master countersigned them as a true record.
- 3. Matters arising:**
  - Assets of the Association – Jack officially handed the Asset Register and Trophy List to the Treasurer for safekeeping. He explained that this was work in progress and as such he would keep a working document and work on it until he was able to complete it. Sue raised the issue that the sets of handbells had never been valued; it was agreed to do this when other assets were due for re-valuation in 2018. Val reported the George Elphick exhibition was too fragile to use as an exhibition and held no value. Stella would contact the Elphick family, Chris Pickford and Taylors to discuss its future as no longer required by the Association. **ACTION SB**  
Jack also informed the meeting that the Trustees had met and, as instructed, had agreed an upper limit of claims that could be made by CC Reps for the 2017 CC meeting to be held in Edinburgh. After researching, they recommended this be £250 per person. David expressed concern over the amount as he felt it was excessive and was mindful to how it would look to the rest of the Association. After a great deal of discussion Anne proposed that the meeting accepted the decision of trustees that CC members can claim up to £250 per person for this year only. This was carried.
  - Post-Vision Progress – David informed the meeting that many points had already moved forward but it was felt there was still confusion over the Sussex rules arising from the Vision. Graham thanked the team for their work. It was agreed for the team to reconvene as a group, come up with practical things that can be done, circulate to the committee and if anybody objects then go from there. **ACTION P-V TEAM**
  - Simulator & Dumbell Application form – Graham had reviewed and updated the form. He explained grants for over £300 were to go to Training & Recruitment for approval first. With a couple of amendments, this was approved.

#### 4. Reports and updates

Reports had been circulated in advance.

- a) **The Training & Recruitment Team** report was accepted with one minor amendment. Christine Baldock was no longer Team Leader so this position is vacant.
- b) **The Safeguarding report** was accepted.
- c) **The Communications & Events Team** report was accepted.
- d) **The Library report** was accepted.
- e) **The Peal & Quarter Peal reports** were accepted.
- f) **The District Secretaries'** reports had been adopted at the ADMs.
- g) **The Master's** report was accepted.
- h) **The Treasurer's** report – Sue reported that the accounts were with the auditor. The meeting was informed that you can actually transfer money from the Unrestricted Fund to both the BRF and Young Sussex Ringers fund. The profit can be transferred for any event where expenditure or income goes through the Unrestricted Fund. There were no plans to raise Subscriptions at the moment. It was requested that for any event that raises income which is publicised through SCACR (eg. Quizzes, Training Courses etc.), an Events Form is completed reflecting all income and expenditure, and sent to the Treasurer. Anne requested permission to buy a new set of Young Sussex Ringers t-shirts as the old set had been bought by the youngsters. This was granted. Sue had finally been granted permission by HMRC to access the SCACR Gift Aid account and was in the process of compiling gift aid claims for the last 4 years. This should amount to several hundred pounds. Sue requested help with Gift Aid and insurance policies. **ACTION ALL to find a volunteer**  
Val A thanked Sue for all her hard work and the report was accepted.

#### 5. Sussex Churches Bell Restoration Fund

- (a) The report was accepted and David reported that Slindon bells were being returned on 13<sup>th</sup> March. The Lindfield grant offer would expire in April of this year and they were aware that they would have to reapply.
- (b) It had been a quiet year on the accounts side. Thakeham raised a significant amount of money for the BRF from a fundraising concert. David informed the meeting that there had been two further early stage enquiries about bell restoration projects in Sussex, with one of them having received a quote for £40,000, SCACR usually giving grants of 20-25%.
- (c) Representatives: N – Terry McGinn, S – Nick Cullen, E – Pip Pawley, W – Roger Watts

#### 6. Nominations The following nominations had been received at ADMs:

- (a) Master – Graham Hills
- (b) General Secretary – Sandra Alford. Sandra informed the meeting that unfortunately, since the ADMs, she had decided not to stand again due to personal circumstances. Graham mentioned the possibility of splitting the role between General Secretary and a new role of Membership Secretary. Sue suggested the renewal membership forms be sent out in Oct/Nov as a way of spreading the load for the General Secretary. This was approved by the Committee. It was also suggested that the handbook be produced in December and then a separate Report (without glossy cover) be produced for end of April. It was agreed for Sue to look into this further. Stella enquired whether the report should be published online as another Association does. She offered to look into this further. Sandra agreed to write and distribute a Job Description and all would approach members for a possible candidate. A vote of thanks was given to Sandra for all her hard work in successfully progressing the role. **Action SG/SA**

(c) Treasurer – Sue Gadd                      (d) Safeguarding Officer – Pat Aylward

(e) BRF Secretary – David Kirkcaldy                      (f) Trustee – Val Atkins

There were no nominations for Vice President.

Margaret Sherwood had sent a written nomination for Jonathan Franklin to be elected Honorary Life Member. John Norris had sent a written nomination for David Kirkcaldy to also be elected as Honorary Life Member. All were in agreement.

Central Council Representatives for 2017-2020 – N – Stephanie Pendlebury, S – Rob Lane, E – Stella Bianco (for 1 year only), W – David Kirkcaldy, 5<sup>th</sup> Rep – Graham Hills. Steph proposed a formal vote of thanks to Margaret Oram for her several years' service representing the North.

Teams and Team Leaders – Graham informed the meeting that Christine Baldock had had to stand down as Team Leader of the Training & Recruitment team so a new leader was required.

**7. Future Association Events:**

**Songs of Praise Service** – a service at East Grinstead commemorating Sussex men lost in WW1. It was hoped that a representative from each tower would attend. **ACTION ALL to promote**

**AGM Saturday 13 May** – Graham reported this would be held at Billingshurst with ringing 10.30 – 12 noon, 12.30 service, followed by a ploughmans lunch and meeting at the Catholic Church Hall.

**8. Any Other Business**

Sussex Quarter Peal week – Alison informed the meeting this would take place 1-8 April with an emphasis on 'firsts'. **ACTION ALL to promote**

Feedback from CCCBR PR Matters Day at Wellesbourne – 5 Sussex members attended and would meet to decide how to move forward with ideas picked up on the day. They would report back at a later date.

SCACR new website – Richard informed the meeting that this would go live at the end of May once requested information from others had been received back. It was requested for interesting high resolution photos to be sent to Richard or Steph for use on the website.

Alison requested if Minutes of ADMs and Officers Reports could be published in the District Newsletters. It was agreed that this could happen once the Reports have been approved at the March General Committee Meeting. It was also agreed to send an email out to all members ahead of the May AGM which included the Agenda and Minutes of the last AGM and a link to the SCACR website where the Officers Reports would have been published.

The Master thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 12.32.